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# RES IPSA LOQUITUR

*Newsletter of*



*the Law Library*

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 5

SCHOOL OF LAW - BLOOMINGTON

FEBRUARY 2003

## PACER and DOXPOP:

### Online Access to Court Docket Information

by Peter Hook, Electronic Services Librarian

**T**he future of litigation will involve the electronic filing of most court papers. This concept is known as "E-Filing." Some federal courts are taking the lead in this area. It is already possible to retrieve case documents-- complaints, answers, orders, opinions, etc., in PDF format, directly from the Website of participating courts. This should be a boon to scholarship as well as a convenient means for students to see what actual court filings look like.

PACER stands for Public Access to Court Electronic Records. This service provides access to case and docket information from the federal Appellate, District and Bankruptcy courts. The U.S. Party/Case Index allows one to globally search all of the participating PACER courts. However, for detailed information on cases found while using the U.S. Party/Case Index, one will need to access the PACER system for the particular jurisdiction where the case is located. One can find a listing of all of the participating PACER court Websites on the PACER homepage at <http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>.

While all participating PACER courts make docket information available electronically, it is a smaller subset of courts that make document images available over the Internet. These sites are identified on the PACER Website with a special logo by their hyperlink. While less than half of the courts participating in the PACER system make document images available, twice within the last month the Library has used PACER to find complaints and answers for recent cases of note. Additionally, even if a PACER search does not yield document images for downloading, having

access to the case docket sheet is useful in requesting documents from the court through either a mail or fax service.

PACER requires a username and password. Additionally, users are charged seven cents per page viewed. Usernames and passwords may be obtained for free from the PACER website. However, the process takes a week as the password information can only be mailed. The Law Library has an account and is happy to perform searches for either faculty members or law students. Currently, we are able to absorb the cost of such searches and will refrain from passing on the costs for as long as possible.

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#### WHAT'S INSIDE?

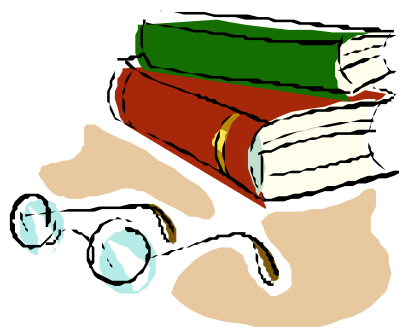
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Another service that provides online access to docket information is DOXPOP. DOXPOP provides online access to the Monroe County docket. Users of this commercial service may search the system to see if someone has been a party to a lawsuit or to ascertain the status of a particular case in Monroe County. While the system does not provide PDF images of filed documents, the service should be of assistance to students and faculty interested in tracking a local case. DOXPOP has provided free access to the Law School community. The company's only stipulation is that the service be used for academic purposes and not in the context of clerking for a law firm. For more information about any of the services discussed in this article please contact Peter Hook, Electronic Services Librarian.

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#### NEW & NOTEWORTHY: THE MOTHER OF ALL LEGAL DIRECTORIES.

*Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory.* New York: Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, Inc., 1931- . [KF190 .M37] Current edition in Reference and at the Circulation Desk.



There are few members of the law school community who are not familiar, at some level, with the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory* (heck, it even made a recent appearance on "Law and Order"). This massive multi-volume annual directory of lawyers and law firms has been around, in one form or another, since 1888. It was in that year that James B. Martindale, a lawyer and businessman, decided there was a need for a directory that would "furnish to lawyers, bankers, wholesale merchants, manufacturers, real estate agents, and all others, the address of one reliable law firm, one reliable bank, and one reliable real estate office in every city in the United States . . ."

Over the years, the *Directory* has gone through a variety of changes, most notably the decision to focus on the legal profession. In 1930, the Martindale Company purchased the rights to *Hubbell's Legal Directory* and began following the *Hubbell* 3-part format: digest of the collected laws of each state, court calendars, and a selective list of lawyers and firms. The first edition of the combined *Directory* was published as a two volume set in 1931. A number of companies published the *Directory* over the years, always retaining the *Martindale-Hubbell* name, with Lexis Publishing (a division of Reed-Elsevier) being the current publisher.

Today, the *Directory* appears in a variety of formats and covers data on more than one million lawyers and firms in more than 150 countries. Condensed versions of the data are available on the

web at [www.martindale.com](http://www.martindale.com) and [www.lawyers.com](http://www.lawyers.com), while the full data is available on Lexis. In addition, an annual CD-ROM is produced with quarterly updates, and of course the traditional bound volumes. The current edition consists of a 15-volume State Directory (State Practice Profiles/Professional Biographies/Services, Suppliers and Consultants), a 2-volume Index to the State Directory, a 1-volume Corporate Law Departments volume, a 2-volume State Digest, a 1-volume International Digest, a 3-volume International Directory, and 1-volume Buyers Guide. Unfortunately, as the set has grown, it has become more and more confusing as to what makes the "current edition." In past years the entire set was replaced by a new edition midway through the year. Now, however, volumes are updated individually throughout the year and thus the up-to-date set on our shelves consists of volumes labeled both 2002 and 2003.

While primarily used as a directory to find current information, the *Directory* is also a gold mine of historic data. As such, the library has retained one copy of the *Directory* since 1957. Additionally, we own microfiche copies of the *Directory* dating back to the first edition in 1888 through the 1999 edition (Microforms Collection, 2nd floor, drawer numbers 140-143).

Dick Vaughan  
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

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#### FORMERLY GODLESS COMMIES NOW TO LEARN RELIGION IN SCHOOL

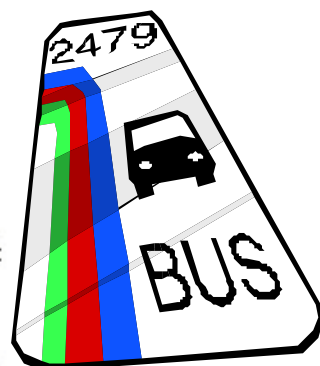
Tired of turkey, football, and the Macy's parade, I decided to spend Thanksgiving in Russia this year. My boyfriend and I flew to Moscow and from there, we took a twelve-hour train ride to the city of Kazan, where his brother, sister-in-law, and toddler niece are living for a year. It was cold . . . it was very cold. The temperature fell as low as -27 Celsius. (That's about -17 Fahrenheit) So far this winter, 141 people have frozen to death in Moscow.

But it was an interesting trip. For instance, I learned how Russian bus drivers deal with fare dodgers: they close the bus doors on them! This happened to me one day, when the bus driver and fare collector mistakenly thought I hadn't paid. (My boyfriend's brother had paid for all four of us at once, and the fare collector hadn't realized that I was one of the four.)



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The driver closed the doors so hard on me that my shoulder blades met behind my back! After this experience, I was understandably a bit jumpy whenever I exited a bus.



Even more interesting was a rumor we heard that Russian schoolchildren would soon be studying Orthodox Christianity in the public schools. I did some research once I returned to the U.S. to learn the facts behind the rumor. The facts are still a bit hazy, but here's what I found: Last month, the Russian Minister of Education, Vladimir Filippov, released a 30-page plan to teach Orthodox culture at every level in the public schools.

Advocates of the new course argue that it does not threaten the secularity of state education, since pupils will be taught about Orthodox Christianity, rather than the Orthodox faith itself. Orthodox church officials participated in creating the plan. The course will take up one hour of instruction a week in primary school and two hours a week in secondary school. The course will be taught by regular teachers who have received training in Orthodox culture. Supporters say that the course will add a moral dimension otherwise missing in the post-Soviet school system and will help reverse the proliferation of crime, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

Minister Filippov has stressed that the new course is "optional," but the plan makes no provision for students who choose not to attend. This is quite a surprising development for a nation in which atheism was officially promoted throughout most of the 20th century. It is also a disturbing development, given Russia's large number of Muslims and Buddhists, as well as the nation's smaller but nevertheless significant number of Jewish citizens. It will be interesting to see how this issue plays out over the next few years.

Liz Larson,  
Reference Librarian

## WHAT I DID ON MY SABBATICAL LEAVE

I recently completed my sabbatical leave—I was off during the fall semester. The major focus of my leave was spending time at the Lawrence County Historical and Genealogical Society in Bedford, cataloging items in their library and assisting patrons and staff. One specific project involved cataloging all their high school yearbooks. At one time there were eleven high schools in Lawrence County (today there are two). Many of these high schools were quite small, with graduating classes of maybe 20 seniors. There were exciting times—the communities lived and died by the high school basketball team. The movie *Hoosiers* is very accurate in this respect. There were poignant things as well—students who died, and alumni who went off to war and did not return. The saddest thing I found was a memorial page in the yearbook for Heltonville High School for the three young men from Heltonville who died in Vietnam.

Other projects I worked on in Bedford was cataloging their military collection, Daughters of the American Revolution collection, and genealogies. I also completed a cemetery survey of Lawrence County.



The sabbatical leave also gave me a chance to work on several essays on the Indiana General Assembly during the time period prior to the Civil War. I did research here in Bloomington, and also at the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana State Library in Indianapolis.

I enjoyed my time on leave, but I was ready to get back. It was not a vacation, but the change of pace and focus was refreshing.

Michael Maben  
Cataloging Librarian

## THE SUGGESTION BOX

Every month in this space Associate Director Linda Fariss responds to a suggestion from the Suggestion Box.

**Suggestion:** Carpeting: Are there any plans to replace the carpet in the Library any time soon? Replace the carpet on the upper floors. It looks very worn and the color is out of style.

**Response:** The Law School Building Committee is currently involved in preparing a needs assessment for the entire building. Flooring throughout the building is one of the things they are evaluating. The carpeting is over 15 years old and is certainly worn in some places. It is likely that the Library, especially the upper floors, will not be the first priority since there are many other areas, such as the main lobby and the classrooms, that are in worse condition. We certainly agree that the appearance of the Library is important and appreciate your concerns and comments. Hopefully the entire building will see some refurbishment in the near future. Thanks for your suggestion.

## UPDATE ON WIRELESS CARDS FOR MAC USERS

In the last issue of *Res Ipsa Loquitur* the Suggestion Box column was devoted to a suggestion from a Law student that the Library purchase a wireless card for Mac users, called an "airport card."

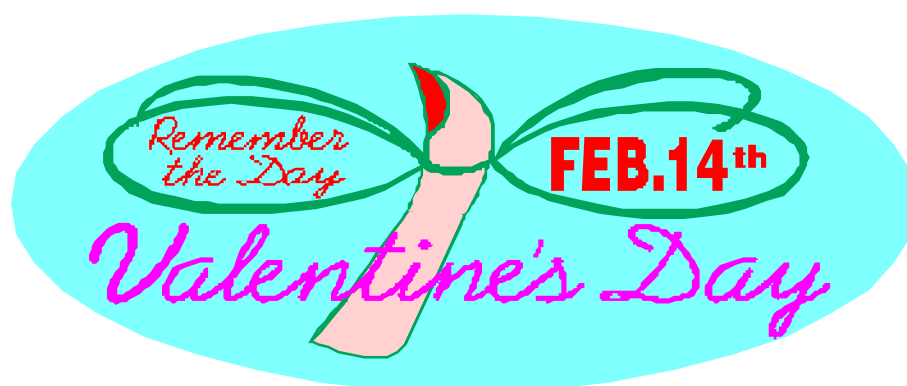
In response, I said I would pass along the request to the Law School Systems Coordinator, Randy Sparks.



I thought it would be helpful to print Randy's response for all of the Mac users in the Law School. Here it is: "Trent [Trueblood, the Law School Computer Support Technician] has done a fair amount of Mac support and has provided some information on the topic. The Airport cards are installed inside the laptop, making them less desirable for checkout and support. The Orinoco cards that we currently have will work in the Mac slots same as the pc slots. There are some adjustments that have to be made, but Trent is willing to deal directly with the Mac users given the small numbers."

Any Mac users out there who would like to use the wireless cards available from the Library should talk with Trent Trueblood about any adjustments that need to be made to their machine. Trent can be found in room 267 in the Law School.

Linda K. Faiss  
Associate Director



## WORKING THE HALLS

Welcome to the Law School:

Brian Kearney joined the Law School Development Office Staff in December as a major gifts officer.



Happy January Birthday to:

Carol Green on the 4th  
Professor Hannah Buxbaum on the 9th  
Sarah Jaramillo on the 15th  
Professor Roger Dworkin on the 19th  
Professor Alexander Tanford on the 23rd  
Library Director Colleen Pauwels on the 25th  
Professor Yvonne Cripps on the 26th  
Professor Aviva Orenstein on the 27th  
Professor Marshall Leaffer on the 31st

Happy February Birthday to:

Pat Clark on the 1st  
Mary Edwards on the 4th  
Nona Watt on the 7th  
Nicholas Hansen on the 20th  
Professor Julia Lamber on the 27th  
Edward Gentry on the 28th

